

Again, congratulations on this proud occasion.

GUN SAFETY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, our Nation reached an important milestone over the past few years. In 2010, according to a recent report by the Violence Policy Center, motor-vehicle-related fatalities dropped to their lowest level in decades, a 72 percent decrease in deaths per miles traveled from 1966 levels. But not all of the report's findings are encouraging. While our roads have become safer, other aspects of American life have become more dangerous. Over that same period, firearm-related deaths steadily increased around the country. In fact, in 2009, firearm-related fatalities exceeded motor vehicle fatalities in 10 States, and current trends indicate that firearm violence statistics are only getting worse. Congress has the ability to protect lives with commonsense safety legislation, just as it did with motor vehicle safety measures. But it has recently lacked the will.

In the 1960s, this Nation confronted a public health crisis on its streets and highways. Over 40,000 people died from motor vehicle crashes in 1960 alone. A 1999 study by the Journal of the American Medical Association found that from 1960 to 1966 this crash death rate ballooned from 49.2 to 55 deaths per billion miles of travel. In response, Congress took action by creating the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, which it charged with the responsibility of developing and implementing vehicle safety initiatives.

In the decades since, the NHTSA has spearheaded numerous efforts that have saved and will continue to save countless lives. Today, we take things like vehicle head rests, energy-absorbing steering wheels, shatter-resistant windshields, and seat belts for granted. We expect our roads to have clearly delineated lanes, guardrails, and adequate lighting. But many of these things would not exist if Congress hadn't taken action to protect the public from the dangers of unregulated motorways.

Just like congressional action made our roads safer, countless studies have shown that commonsense gun safety legislation would protect our homes, our schools, and our families from violence. According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2009, guns killed more than 30,000 Americans and injured over 65,000. But despite these statistics, Congress has done little to address this public health crisis. Today, almost anyone, including convicted felons or the mentally ill, can walk into a gun show and buy a firearm from a private dealer without any background check. Others can walk into a gun shop and walk out with military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines, weapons with no sport-ing purposes.

Legislation has been introduced in this Congress that would address both of these issues and would make our society safer. I am a cosponsor of the Gun Show Background Check Act of 2011, S.35, and the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices Act, S.32, bills that would close this gun show loophole and prevent the sale of military-style ammunition cartridges. Congress should take up and pass these measures. We should act, like we did in the 1960s, to protect American lives with commonsense safety legislation. The price of doing nothing is just too high.

BRINGING JUSTICE TO UGANDA

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, the war crimes of Joseph Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army, LRA, are well documented. For two decades, they have terrorized Uganda and its neighbors in central Africa, tearing apart families and demolishing whole villages. Their war crimes are unspeakable, and Joseph Kony and other leaders of the LRA must be held accountable.

As chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs, I partnered with Senator JIM INHOFE to introduce S. Res. 402, a bipartisan resolution condemning the crimes against humanity committed by Joseph Kony and the LRA, supporting ongoing international efforts to remove Kony from the battlefield, and calling for the United States to continue to enhance its mobility, intelligence, and logistical support of regional forces protecting civilians and pursuing the LRA.

The most important thing about this resolution is not that it has earned the support of 46 Senators of both political parties nearly half the Senate. What is most important is that this resolution has earned the support of 215 citizen cosponsors, individual Americans who felt compelled to speak out against Joseph Kony and stand with the President and the international community in their work to bring Kony and his top lieutenants to justice.

In an unprecedented wave of grassroots engagement, thousands of young Americans were inspired to take action by a powerful video released earlier this year by Invisible Children, a California-based nonprofit organization. This video was viewed more than 100 million times in just under a week, making it the most viral video in history. Yet young people all over this country did more than just watch they took action. They called and wrote their elected officials, they posted on Facebook and Twitter, and their voices were heard.

Although many of us in the Senate have been working on issues related to Joseph Kony and the LRA for years, hearing directly from so many of our constituents has renewed our focus and our commitment. It has been decades since we have seen such intense engagement from young Americans on a

humanitarian situation in Africa, making this a critical moment to recognize and sustain.

Mr. President, I ask that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect the names of each of the 215 Americans who have signed on to S. Res. 402 as citizen cosponsors and thank each of them for standing with members of Congress, the President, and the international community as we work toward bringing Joseph Kony and his top commanders to justice.

List of names: The List follows:

Eugene Kim, Diane Delaney, Richard Behenna, Joann O'Reilly, Wanda Miller, Michelle Comfort, Rachel Breaux, Kourtney Harper, Daimian Dunn, Mary Claire Smith, Shea Grubbs, Tamara Kaiser, Shannon Wheeler, Sheila Janca, Laura Cordovano, Kenny Allen, Maureen Strazdus, Karen Gillis, Katie Nuber, Alex Gernert, Lucas Chizek, Susan Tuberville, Danielle Neuman, Greg Simpson, Lindsey Williams, Cyndie Daniel, Jan Carr, Sarah Langlois, Christine Turo-Shields, Heidi Nelson, Erin Kenna, Spenser Hooks, Emily Gneiser, John Parkhurst, Paul Claus, Diane Adams, Lindsay Katai, Andrew Towarnicky, Phillip Teel, Debra Niederschulte, Elana Katz, Priscilla Brown, Rachel Whisenant, Austin Martino, Cheree Miller, Briana Arensberg, Tiffany Luu, Mike Boucher, Abigail Rings, Nicholas Blake, Melanie Lopez, Emily Poley, Mary Louise Bannerman, Leah Schult, Sandi Jean, Stephanie Carroll, Gwyn Seltzer, Lillian Grace Walton, Jayme Collings, Angus Dupee, Karl Nielsen, G. Morgan Timmis, Christopher Walton, Andrya Ryan, Laura Vandivort, Mary Ann Mastrolillo, Lena Dupee, Nikkolette Dykstra, Anna Kuralt-Fenton, Paige Weber, Zachary Landrum, Kathy Stracke, Sara Schlussler, Carol Gernert, Emmanuel Ojobaro, Jessica Lapsley, Kara Sewall, Autumn Nyagaya, Daniel Sherier, Amber Gonzalez, Alice Jo Cargo, Jane Ziegler, Jane Coufal, Nicola Archibald, Victor Pulido-Rojas, Bailey Cox, Kevin Weidert, Nicole Tacker, William Mattheis, Jessica Nicholson, Connor Regan, Susan Bjelajac, Nicole Munger, Dave Stracke, Spencer Dove, Lynette Heinz, Adam Webb, Hillary Granier, Patricia Camacho, Janine Kramer, Tracy Frank, Ricky Hankies, Michelle Benzenhoefer, Susan Pullen, Sadie Stone, Dawn Hendrickson, Terie Fightmaster, Vickie Myers, Marcel Adams, Alicia McClain, Claire Whillans, Jordan Garrett, Sierra Stahl, Pedro Manancero, Andrea Timberlake, Jessie Garrett, Brynn Doherty, Brit-tany Dunn, C. Reid Johnson, Angela Underwood, Kate Haselhoff, Rebecca Dale, Grace Rogers, Allana Alexander, Andrew Stanek, Kevin Febus, Amy Gernert, Melissa Franklin, Erik Nielsen, Tyler McDaniel, Stephen Mulrine, Wendy Atkins, Samantha Foster, Dean Ober, Jade Thiraswas, Danielle Discepoli, Carolyn Hunter, Andrea Forney, Brenna Garman, Emily Dimaio, Christopher Kleinsmith, Andrew Bruner, Michele Widd-Williams,

Mary Thomas, Lisa Dougan, Alejandra Rios-Gutierrez, Elena Adlon Place, Peter Moosman, Kaylee Galvez, Nicole Eneff, Annette Hearing, Nathan Keller, Eva Posner, Latrisha McGhee, Christina Harrington, Joshua Hampton, Noah Eckstein, D.J. Morgan, Maryanne Rieder, Katherine Sasser, Jaclyn Licht, Robin Uribe, Jonathan Main, Ian Koski, Kaitlyn Scott, Brett Stauner, Dawn La Bounty, Deepan Rajaratnam, Sarah Henn, Jaquelyn Musselman, Charles Coats, Vanessa Walters, Chelsie Asher, Daniel Underwood, Chandler Kemp, Matthew Bowen, Margo Cowan, Joseph Denny, Harrison McIntosh, Drew McKinnie, Jesse Jimenez, Nancy Floeter, Kimberleigh Allen, Jamie McKay, Amos Allen, Toni Glaess, Shayleen Kurtz, Matthew Gaby, Lucas Neuman, Danny Couto, Kathleen Barnett, Debra Zens, Micah Aumen, Sarah Lake, Maxim Gantman, Jonathan Rakofsky, Noelle Quanci, Jordan Green, Neil-Brian Samen, Annamarie Reese, Jeffrey Man, Willard Williams, Tammy Brown, Noor Tozy, Daniel Smith, Grace Bennett, James Daley, Akshay Chalana, Leisa Thompson, Carol Maynard, Casey Gordon, Christopher Hays, Earnest Miller, Carol Lee Saffioti-Hughes, Alan Solinger, Carol Solinger, Peter Russell, Michael Reed, Zachary Patten, Dustin Davis.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SACO, MAINE

• Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the City of Saco, ME, one of the oldest communities in New England and one that exemplifies the determination and resiliency of its people. In 1617, 3 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, the English explorer Richard Vines established a test winter settlement along a sheltered cove on the coast of Maine. That settlement where the Saco River meets the sea, grew, prospered, and eventually was incorporated in 1762.

The name "Saco" is derived from the Abenaki word for "mouth of the tidal stream," and the sheltered cove, known today as Biddeford Pool, had been a thriving center of Native American villages and cultivated fields dating back to prehistoric times. Although some 37 English families—fishermen, traders, lumberjacks, and farmers—relocated there within 20 years of Mr. Vines' exploration, growth was stifled by frequent armed conflicts with the French during those early colonial times.

The conflicts subsided and in 1716 a young merchant named William Pepperrell purchased 5,000 acres along the Saco River for a lumber operation. The small village began to prosper. In 1752, Sir William Pepperrell, by then a war hero and the first person born in America to be made an English baronet, donated a parcel to be a village

common, burial ground, and site for a meetinghouse. Ten years later, the settlers incorporated as the town of Pepperrellborough, in honor of their benefactor.

In 1805, the long name was replaced with the much shorter Abenaki word, but the vision and energy of William Pepperrell lived on. First with water power and then with steam, Saco and its sister city across the river, Biddeford, became leading manufacturing centers of the industrial age in North America. At Saco Falls, 17 sawmills supplied Maine's shipbuilders. On Factory Island, Saco Iron Works opened in 1811, followed shortly by foundries, harness makers, and machine shops. With the arrival of the railroad came the great engine of the community's economy—vast, bustling textile mills.

That Saco is a city built by the skilled hands of past generations is evident in the fine architecture cherished by the residents of today. Nine properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the First parish Congregational Church, City Hall, and many homes in the Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, and Victorian styles.

The decline of American manufacturing in the late 20th century presented Saco with one of the greatest challenges in its history. It is a challenge that is being met with the same strength demonstrated by its early settlers. The abandoned mills on Factory Island are undergoing a transformation with residential, educational, and business uses, bringing an economic renaissance to the downtown. Today, Saco is a center for tourism, education, and the arts. Its skilled workers keep the city on the forefront of high-tech manufacturing, including invaluable contributions to our Nation's security in the defense industry. A community that once used waterfalls to power sawmills now uses clean, renewable wind energy to light its beautiful passenger rail station.

Mr. President, the yearlong celebration now underway is not merely about the passing of time. It is about human accomplishment. We celebrate the people who for more than 2½ centuries have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a great community. Thanks to those who came before, Saco, ME, has a wonderful history. Thanks to those here today, it has a bright future.●

RECOGNIZING THE GEORGIA PEANUT COMMISSION

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor in the RECORD the 50th anniversary of the Georgia Peanut Commission.

In 1961, the Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Peanuts was established under the Commodities Promotion Act. The Commission conducts programs in the areas of promotion, research and education, and it is funded by peanut producers.

Today, the Commission represents over 3,500 peanut farmers in our great State of Georgia who produce nearly half of our nation's peanuts. The Georgia peanut industry contributes an estimated \$2 billion to our State's economy and provides more than 50,000 jobs, making it a vital component to the citizens of our State.

Georgia peanuts are simply delicious, and the Georgia Peanut Commission sends my Senate office and other Georgia congressional offices lots of its signature little red bags of Georgia peanuts to give out to our constituents. In fact, the Georgia Peanut Commission distributes an impressive 2 million bags of Georgia peanuts far and wide each year.

I am proud to honor the Georgia peanut industry, which is critically important to our State and Nation, and I congratulate the Georgia Peanut Commission on its 50th anniversary.●

EUREKA, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of Eureka, SD. Eureka is a town with a remarkable history deeply intertwined with the State of South Dakota and the country at large.

At its founding in 1887, Eureka was merely the end of the line for one section of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad, but its bountiful water supply and strategic location between Bismark, ND and Pierre, SD assured that within just 5 years it would become the largest primary wheat shipping point in the entire world. It also became a haven for ethnic Germans who fled the oppression of Czarist Russia, a cultural heritage which is proudly maintained today. During World War II, Eureka again proved its worth to the country, as its proud farmers worked hard to make sure America's Armed Forces overseas were well fed.

More modern town heroes include Kathryn Schulkoski, who served as the town's librarian for 42 years, and whose name is now borne by the library she dedicated her life to. The town has produced nationally known figures as well, including Al Neuharth, founder of USA Today, and Marlene Hagge, a founding member of the LPGA and inductee to the World Golf Hall of Fame.

Today, Eureka keeps its heritage alive with events such as the annual Schmeckfest, first started by the town's Germans from Russia chapter in 1987, which continues to be a major draw for visitors; the Eureka Pioneer Museum, which gives visitors a wonderful look at the town's history and features a famous 37 foot tall wheat stalk statue; and of course kuchen, the delicious pastry dish which, after successful lobbying by the town, became the official dessert of the State of South Dakota.

Eureka will celebrate its quasiquicentennial with carnivals, a parade, concerts, and a fireworks display